

## Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04

H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 ACDA-07 /088 W

-----039069 220934Z /20

R 211643Z JUN 77

FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1849

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L LAGOS 6993

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PDEV, SF, WA, US, UN

SUBJECT: FRENCH AMBASSADOR'S BRIEFING OF NETO ON NAMIBIAN TALKS

1. FRENCH CHARGE' ROBIN READ TO ME THIS MORNING A TELEGRAM JUST RECEIVED FROM THE FRENCH AMBASSADOR IN LUANDA REPORTING ON THE NAMIBIAN TALKS BRIEFING HE HAD JUST GIVEN TO NETO AND JORGE. NETO SAID HE WAS COMFORTABLE WITH THE FORMULA OF A SOUTH AFRICAN ADMINISTRATOR GENERAL SINCE IT RESEMBLED TRANSITIONAL ARRANGEMENT ESTABLISHED IN ANGOLA AND MOZAMBIQUE BY THE PORTUGUESE IN THE PERIOD IMMEDIATELY PRECEDING INSTALLATION OF INDEPENDENT MPLA AND FRELIMO GOVERNMENTS. HE WAS WORRIED, HOWEVER, ABOUT THE "ENTOURAGE" OF SOUTH AFRICANS THAT MIGHT BE ASSIGNED TO SUPPORT THE ADMINISTRATOR GENERAL. HE WAS ALSO CONCERNED ABOUT SOUTH AFRICAN MILITARY PRESENCE, WHICH HE SAID WOULD NOT BE COMPATIBLE WITH THE CONCEPT OF

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FREE ELECTIONS. HE QUESTIONED THE VALIDITY OF CONSTITUANT ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS IN WHICH AN ILLITERATE ELECTORATE WITH NO PREPARATION FOR DEMOCRACY ("UNLIKE THE DECOLONIZATION PROCESS IN FRANCOPHONE AFRICA") COULD BE INTIMIDATED BY THE SOUTH AFRICAN ARMY. RESULTS OF SUCH AN ELECTION COULD BE FALSIFIED. HE SAID SWAPO SHOULD HAVE A POWERFUL ROLE DURING THE TRANSITION TO ELECTIONS AND URGED THAT SWAPO BE BROUGHT TOGETHER WITH SOUTH AFRICA TO DISCUSS THESE

TRANSITIONAL ARRANGEMENTS. NETO REFERRED TO SOUTH AFRICAN OBSTINACY CONCERNING WALVIS BAY AS "A GRAVE OBSTACLE TO PEACEFUL HANDOVER OF POWER." HE FEARED AN ARMED CONFRONTATION WAS INEVITABLE. HE ASKED ABOUT NATO'S SOUTHERN PERIMETER, STATING THAT "SURELY" WALVIS BAY CONSTITUTED A STRATEGIC INTEREST FOR THE NATO ALLIANCE.

2. THE FRENCH AMBASSADOR, WHO RESPONDED TO NETO'S QUESTIONS ALONG THE CG'S AGREED LINES, APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN IMPRESSED BY SOMEWHAT MORE OPENESS AND FLEXIBILITY IN NETO'S REMARKS THAN HE HAD ANTICIPATED.  
EASUM

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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
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**Executive Order:** GS  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
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